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The Lords Protest

On the TREATY of Peace, Union, and Friendship, between Great-Britain, France and Spain; concluded at Seville on the 9th of November last.

Die Martis 27 Januarii 1729.

Mov'd to Resolve, That the Treaty of *Peace, Union, and Friendship*, concluded at *Seville*, on the 9th of *November* last, does contain all necessary Stipulations for maintaining and securing the Honour, Dignity, Rights, and Possessions, of the Crown; and that all due Care is taken therein for the Support of the Trade of this Kingdom, and for repairing the Losses suffered by the Merchants.

After Debate,

The Question was put thereupon, and it was Resolved in the Affirmative.

Dissentient

Because we think this Question, from the Debate as well as from the Import of the Question it self, was design'd as a Justification of the whole Treaty, which appears to us neither to be Solid, Honourable, nor Advantageous, for the following Reasons.

I. BECAUSE We know not whether all the Treaties and Conventions concluded between *England* and *Spain*, may be, in every Article of them, so beneficial to us, as to be fit to be again confirmed and renewed.

II. Be-

Price Four-pence.

II. Because, as we think it extreamly difficult to examine, with requisite Nicety, how advantageous every Treaty and Convention between *Great Britain* and *Spain* may be to us; so we think it absurd to pretend to judge of any future Agreement, and therefore we think it very extraordinary, and apprehend it may be of very ill Consequence, to be bound, as we are, by this Treaty, to ratify and guaranty whatever Agreement shall be made between the King of *Spain* and Dukes of *Tuscany* and *Parma*, concerning the Garrisons once established in their Countries.

III. Because the Obligation on our Merchants to make Proof of the Justice of their Demands for their Losses, at the Court of *Spain*, is, in our Opinion, an Hardship upon them, and not honourable for the Nation; and we are persuaded those unfortunate Gentlemen will undertake so troublesome and expensive a Journey with the less Chearfulness, because they may fear their Claims are not unlikely to be counterbalanced by others from the *Spaniards*; and after all, they have only the slender Comfort of hoping, if they think there is even any Room for them to hope, to get that Redress by Commissaries, which they have not hitherto been able to obtain by Plenipotentiaries.

IV. Because we are obliged to assist in effectuating the Introduction of Six Thousand *Spanish* Troops into the Towns of *Tuscany* and *Parma*, without specifying the Methods we are to take, or Charge we are to be at, in giving that Assistance; so that, for aught we know, we may be liable to an endless Trouble, and unlimited Expence, to compass what, if effected, cannot, in our Opinion, be of any Advantage to us, but, as we fear, may prove most prejudicial and destructive.

V. Because we oblige ourselves to guaranty for ever, not only to *Don Carlos*, but even to all his Successors, the Right to, and Possession of, the States of *Tuscany* and *Parma*, which we think is a Stipulation of so extensive a Nature, that we can hardly see we are ever like to be exempted from the Disputes and Quarrels it may, too probably, draw upon us.

VI. Because this Treaty differs from the Quadruple Alliance, upon which 'tis pretended to be chiefly founded, in some Points that seemed to be thought essential by ourselves, as well as by the Kings of *France* and *Spain*, as far as we can judge by the Stipulations of former Alliances, particularly in that of introducing *Spanish* Troops, instead of Neutral, into *Tuscany* and *Parma*; and by stipulating, that those Troops shall remain there till *Don Carlos* and his Successors are secure and exempt from all Events; which, from the Nature and Extent of human Fore-sight, we think the warmest Advocates for the Treaty must allow, is, in Effect, to say, They are to remain there for ever.

VII. Because the Alterations in this Treaty, from that of the Quadruple Alliance, are made, not only without the Consent of the



the Emperor, but, as we fear, he will interpret it, since he has not the Compliment paid him of being invited into it, almost in Defiance of him; and if this Treatment of him should unhappily alienate his Friendship from us, we think we should, as good *Englishmen*, have great Reason to lament the Loss of such an Ancient, Powerful, and Faithful Ally.

VIII. Because we apprehend there is an artful Omission throughout the whole Treaty, of any plain and express Stipulation to secure to us our Right to *Gibraltar* and *Minorca*, which, however willing we are to attribute it, rather to the superior Skill of the *Spanish* Managers, than to any want of Zeal for their Country in our own, is an Error that we fear will leave our Possession of those important Places too liable to future Cavils; and we think the *Spaniards* could not, with the least plausible Pretence of Reason, have refused to ascertain our indubitable Right to them in as strong and explicite Terms, as we have declared ourselves Guarantees of the Right, Possession, Tranquillity, and Quiet of the *Italian* Dominions allotted to *Don Carlos* and his Successors; since we have had the Complaisance to admit the *Spaniards* to discuss their Pretensions for the Restitution of the Ships taken in the Year 1718, tho' their Right to that Compensation was as effectually secured to them, as it can be pretended ours is to *Gibraltar* and *Minorca*, by those general Words that renew and confirm all former Treaties.

IX. Because his Majesty himself, by his Speech from the Throne, seems not entirely free from Apprehensions of new Troubles being still likely to arise in *Europe*, even in Resentment of the present Engagements; and if he thought this Peace had settled the publick Tranquillity upon a lasting Foundation, we are confident his Pater-nal Goodness would have inclined him, by a further Reduction of Troops, to have given more Ease to his People, who have long groaned under the heavy Burthen of Taxes almost insupportable, and of a large standing Army, and have had all their Grievances increased by a pernicious Interruption of late of that flourishing Commerce, without which they can neither be happy at home, nor respected abroad.

X. Because it appears to us, after the most mature Consideration of all particulars, that we are much farther obliged than we were before, and than, we think, we ever ought to be, to meddle in Disputes about Territories at a great Distance from us, and in which our National Interest seems no way concern'd; and since one of the principal contracting Parties in that Alliance upon which this is built, is not only left out of it, but, as we think there is Reason to believe, extreamly disengaged by it; and since it seems impossible to make the Introduction of *Spanish* Troops into *Tuscany* and *Parma*, even by the most prevailing Application we can use, consistent with the Dignity and Quiet of those Princes, whose Towns they are to garrison; we own ourselves, upon the whole, incapable of discerning either the Equity or Policy of this Treaty, which

which we fear will not enable us, either to restore what we have lost, or long to preserve quietly and undisturbed what we yet possess; and, which we fear, instead of extricating us out of those Difficulties that we have of late been involved in, and which have been owing, in a great Measure, in our Judgment, to the Incapacity of those Ministers by whose Counsels we have been intangled in a Labyrinth of unnecessary, if not prejudicial, Treaties and Engagements, will probably be the melancholly Occasion of fresh Disturbances, and bring upon us, already too much impoverish'd, the Misery and Confusion of a War; which, if once kindled, we are convinced it will be as difficult to know the End, as to determine the Success of such a fatal Event.

<i>Scarsdale</i>	<i>Beaufort</i>	<i>Gower.</i>	<i>Bedford</i>
<i>Thanet</i>	<i>Anglesey</i>	<i>Coventry</i>	<i>Huntington</i>
<i>Bruce</i>	<i>Boyle</i>	<i>Bathurst</i>	<i>Willoughby de Brook</i>
<i>Foley</i>	<i>Plimouth</i>	<i>Strafford</i>	<i>Oxford and Mortimer</i>
<i>Northampton</i>	<i>Abington</i>	<i>Warrington</i>	<i>Montjoy</i>
<i>Aylesford</i>	<i>Middleton</i>	<i>Bristol</i>	<i>Bridgewater.</i>